

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Soviet and Eastern European Countries	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Tanning Extracts Used by Eastern European Countries	DATE DISTR.	8 March 1955
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DATE ACQUIRED	This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

East Germany

1. East Germany planned to import in 1954 the following amounts of tanning extracts:

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Quebracho	2,000 tons
Mimosa	2,000 tons
Chestnut	1,200 tons
Oakwood	2,000 tons

This represented 30% of the total planned consumption in 1954. The other 70% is made up of indigenous pine bark extract and synthetic extracts (about 50%) manufactured by a former I.G. Farben plant.

2. Actual purchases of tanning extracts by the beginning of September 1954 were as follows:

Quebracho	650 tons
Mimosa	400 tons
Chestnut	400 tons
Oakwood	600-1,100 tons

25X1

25X1

3. The sharp fall in purchases are caused by a severe shortage of hides in East Germany. It was hoped to obtain large quantities of hides through two barter deals closed with the latter country, each for \$20,000,000.

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East Germany could only compensate for the hide shortage by importing large quantities of finished leather and shoes.

Poland

4. The annual consumption of tanning extracts by Poland is:

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25X1

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X	AEC	X
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25X1

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by X, field distribution by)

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25X1

Quebracho 4,500-5,500 tons

Mimosa 1,500 tons

25X1

[redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] An oakwood factory has just been 25X1
 opened in Poland which will cover requirements of this commodity.
 Synthetic and pine bark extracts are also produced in Poland and certain
 quantities of these are also imported from East Germany. 25X1

Hungary

5. Annual consumption of quebracho [redacted] and mimosa [redacted] 25X1
 amounts to 1,500-3,000 tons. The Hungarians prefer to take as much of
 this amount as possible in quebracho extract, but that depends on the
 smooth functioning of their trade agreement [redacted] They also 25X1
 use quantities of valonia extract and valonia and Trillo (sic) in raw
 form [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] They have indigenous oak bark. The imported 25X1
 materials are estimated to represent 80 - 90% of consumption.

Czechoslovakia

6. Consumption averages:

Quebracho - 1,000 tons per year. [redacted]

25X1

Mimosa - [redacted]

25X1

Oakwood and Myrebalan extracts

- 1,200 tons [redacted]

25X1

Chestnut - 300 tons per year [redacted]

25X1

in addition indigenous pine, bark extracts and home-produced synthetic
 tars are used.

Bulgaria

7. Consumption averages:

Quebracho - 400 tons annually [redacted]

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25X1

Valonia - probably 300 tons [redacted]

25X1

Oak bark - indigenous.

Rumania

8. The Rumanians imported large quantities of quebracho up to 1950; their
 annual consumption was 1,500-3,000 tons. Nothing was bought from abroad
 in 1953. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] 25X1

U.S.S.R.

9. [redacted] 25X1

They appear to make-do with their indigenous production of willow bark,
 pine bark, and chestnut extracts. There has been no revival of the large-
 scale pre-war trade with the U.S.S.R. in mimosa extracts and mimosa bark.

China

10. China is again purchasing large quantities of quebracho [redacted]

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